

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-13 OMB-01 ACDA-07 MC-02 /093 W

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R 120956Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0304

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW, UR

SUBJECT: GROC OFFICIALS DENY ATHENS NEWSPAPER REPORT THAT
ROC IS NEGOTIATING WITH USSR

1. THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS JULY 12 CARRIED A UPI DISPATCH FROM ATHENS WHICH REPORTED AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "TAIWAN WILL GIVE BASES TO THE RUSSIANS," WHICH, ACCORDING TO UPI, APPEARED IN THE JULY 11 ATHENS DAILY ACROPOLIS AND WAS WRITTEN BY CHRISTOS PHILIPPIDES, WHO WAS IDENTIFIED AS THE EDITOR OF ACROPOLIS. THE ARTICLE REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED THAT IF THE U.S. NORMALIZES RELATIONS WITH THE PRC, THE ROC "WILL MOST LIKELY GIVE A BASE TO THE SOVIET UNION," AND THAT "SECRET CONTACTS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND TAIPEI ARE UNDERWAY."

2. THE CHINA NEWS QUOTED TWO GROC SPOKESMEN'S DENIAL OF THE ACROPOLIS ARTICLE. MOFA SPOKESMAN CHUNG HU-PING WAS QUOTED AS SAYING IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY: "I HAVEN'T SEEN

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THE REPORT YET. BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. SUCH A MOVEMENT IS

INCONCEIVABLE BECAUSE IT IS AGAINST THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT." MND SPOKESMAN LI CHANG-HAO REPORTEDLY SAID HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE MATTER.

3. CHINESE-LANGUAGE PRESS HAS SO FAR NOT PUBLISHED THE UPI REPORT OR OFFICIALS' DENIALS.

4. COMMENT: RUMORS OF ROC/SOVIET CONTACTS HAVE SURFACED OCCASIONALLY OVER THE YEARS, AND THIS APPEARS TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN ANOTHER TO ADD TO THE LIST. TAIPEI-BASED REPORTERS CONFIRM THAT PHILIPPIDES WAS IN TAIPEI RECENTLY, BUT THEY SAY HE SAW VERY FEW PEOPLE WHILE HERE. NONE COULD OFFER ANY SUGGESTIONS ABOUT WHERE PHILIPPIDES MIGHT HAVE OBTAINED HIS INFORMATION AND ONE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT HIS ARTICLE APPEARED TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN PURE SPECULATION.
UNGER

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